AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following rewritten Abstract which appears on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

Page 5, replace the paragraph beginning on line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

--FIG. 2 exemplifies communication routes to which the method for designing the communication routes according to the invention is applied to derive a tree-structure solution. Ingress or egress nodes are denoted by E1, E2, ..., E10 and connection nodes are denoted by C1, C2, ..., C5. The six routes ~~metnioned~~ mentioned as follows are extracted as a subset of the routes. The six routes is provided with the same egress node E1.--

Page 6, replace the paragraph beginning on line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

--Whether the tree can be generated or not is judged on the [[bias]] basis of the rules mentioned as follows.

(1) If there is not a node, other than the egress node, which commonly appears in a route/tree A and a route/tree B, the tree can be generated from the route/tree A and the route/tree B.

(2) In case that there is a node which commonly appears in the route/tree A and the route/tree B, if the other node connected with the aforementioned common node appears in the

route/tree A and the route/tree B commonly, the tree can be generated; and if not so, the tree cannot be generated.--

Page 7, replace the paragraph beginning on line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

--FIG. 4 shows a method for judging whether the tree can be generated or not in the aforementioned case. Whether there is a node, other than the egress node, commonly appearing in the route/tree n and the route/tree m or not is judged at Step S11. If there is not a common node, it is judged that a tree can be generated from the route/tree n and the route/tree m (Step S12). If there is a node commonly appearing in the route/tree n and the route/tree m, whether the other node connected with the aforementioned common node commonly appears in the route/tree n and the route/tree m or not is judged. If there is such a common node which is connected with the aforementioned common node, the process is shifted to Step S12, and it is judged that the tree can be generated. If there is not such a common node which is connected with the aforementioned common node, it is judged that generation of the tree is impossible (Step S14).--

Page 10, replace the paragraph beginning on line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

--In this case, when route m is added to tree n, the tree m is regarded as "design completed." (Step 26). On the basis of the judgment of Step S27, Steps S24 to S26 are

repeatedly applied to all the routes which are other than the route n and regarded as "design not yet completed." Steps S24 to S26 are repeatedly applied to all the routes, and whether all the routes are regarded as "design completed" or not is judged (Step S28). If one or more routes which are regarded as "design not yet completed" still remain, Steps 22 to 27 are repeatedly applied.--